

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 03357 01 OF 02 301648Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
SSM-05 /117 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3047
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03357

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 USUN N 03357 01 OF 02 301648Z

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: PORC, PDEU, RQ
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 CONTINUES CONSIDERATION OF
PUERTO RICO

REF: USUN 3342

SUMMARY: THE COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) CONTINUED ITS CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO AUGUST 29 BY HEARING FIVE MORE PETITIONERS. SENATOR MIGUEL HERNANDEZ AGOSTO, HEAD OF THE PRO-COMMONWEALTH POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP), DECLARED THAT COMMONWEALTH STATUS FULLY REPRESENTS SELF-DETERMINATION. HE URGED THE GA TO USE ITS GOOD OFFICES WITH THE US TO BRING ABOUT A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THAT STATUS. SENATOR NICOLAS NOGUERA JR., MAJORITY LEADER OF THE PUERTO RICO SENATE, FAVORED STATEHOOD AND DECLARED THAT "CONTINUAL POSTPONEMENT" BY THE C-24 OF THE PUERTO RICO ITEM MADE PEOPLE "LOSE FAITH IN ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION". GRACIANY MIRANDA MARCHAND (PRESIDENT OF THE PUERTO RICO BAR ASSOCIATION) AND ENEIDA VAZQUEZ (PRESIDENT OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEACE COUNCIL) REPRESENTED THE INDEPENDENCE POINT OF VIEW AND WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE US. FRANCISCO APONTE PEREZ (PRESIDENT OF PROELA, INC) SUPPORTED A FREE ASSOCIATION STATUS UNDER WHICH PUERTO RICO WOULD ENJOY A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY. CUBAN AMBASSADOR ROA CONCLUDED THE MEETING WITH AN ATTACK ON MIAMI MAYOR MAURICE FERRE. ADDITIONAL PETITIONERS WILL BE HEARD AT THE NEXT MEETING ON AUGUST 30 AT 3:00 PM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST SPEAKER OF THE DAY WAS SENATOR MIGUEL HERNANDEZ AGOSTO, LEADER OF THE PRO-COMMONWEALTH POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP) SINCE JULY 1978. THE PDP WAS APPEARING BEFORE THE C-24 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ORDER TO DEFEND ITS
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 USUN N 03357 01 OF 02 301648Z

COMMITMENT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, TO CLARIFY "FALLACIES" PUT OUT BY OTHER SPEAKERS AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE PDP HAD TRIED TO DEVELOP FREE ASSOCIATION (COMMONWEALTH) STATUS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF RELATIONS WITH THE US, WHICH EFFORT HE SAID HAD BEEN FRUSTRATED BY THE US. FREE ASSOCIATION OR COMMONWEALTH STATUS, HE DECLARED, WAS THE PRODUCT OF FREE EXERCISE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND WAS SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE. HE OPPOSED STATEHOOD AS AN OPTION FOR PUERTO RICO AS IT WOULD MEAN EXTINCTION OF PUERTO RICAN IDENTITY. NOR IS INDEPENDENCE A VIABLE OPTION AS IT IS NOT ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GA USE ITS GOOD OFFICES AND MORAL AUTHORITY WITH THE US TO BRING ABOUT FULL DEVELOPMENT OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS. HE FOUND LITTLE VALUE IN THE C-24'S ANNUAL HEARINGS ALWAYS CONDUCTED UNDER THE THREAT OF A DECISION THAT WOULD BE DAMAGING TO THE UN PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND EVEN TO THE REALITIES AND VALUES OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE. THIS IS NOT THE FUNCTION OF THE UN IN SUPPORT OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY FOR ALL PEOPLE. RATHER THAN CONTINUING WITH THE UNPRODUCTIVE "ANNUAL RITE" THE UN SHOULD DEVISE A FORMULA TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE US CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT TO OBTAIN A MUTUALLY-AGREED

REVISION OF THE 1952 COMPACT. HE OUTLINED 11 PRINCIPLES AS A GUIDE TO FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATUS OF FREE ASSOCIATION. HE CONCLUDED BY APPEALING FOR SUCH DEVELOPMENT TO AVOID A TRAGIC CONFRONTATION AND POLARIZATION OF VIEWS OF THE PUERTO RICO PEOPLE.

3. SENATOR NICOLAS NOGUERA JR, MAJORITY LEADER OF THE PUERTO RICO SENATE, SPOKE FOR STATEHOOD AS FAVORED BY THE NEW PROGRESSIVE PARTY (NPP). HE QUESTIONED THE VALIDITY OF THE 1952 PUERTO RICAN DECISION FOR COMMON-WEALTH STATUS AS WELL AS THE "SO-CALLED" PLEBISCITE HELD IN 1967 (IN WHICH 60 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03357 02 OF 02 301644Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03357

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 03357 02 OF 02 301644Z

FAVORED COMMONWEALTH STATUS). NOGUERA CLAIMED THE LATTER WAS BIASED IN FAVOR OF THE GOVT IN POWER AND HAD BEEN BOYCOTTED BY OTHER MAJOR PARTIES. PUERTO RICO IS DISSATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT POLITICAL SYSTEM, HE SAID, AND HAS NOT VALIDLY EXERCISED ITS "INALIENABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION". HE DECLARED THAT "CONTINUAL POSTPONEMENT" OF THE PUERTO RICO ITEM BY THE C-24 MADE PEOPLE "LOSE FAITH IN ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION". HE SAID THE C-24 MIGHT SOME DAY HAVE THE MORAL COURAGE TO CONDEMN A DICTATORSHIP SUCH AS IN CUBA. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO REPUDIATED THOSE WHO USE THIS ISSUE TO ATTACK THE US. PUERTO RICO KNEW WHAT IT WANTED. IT DID NOT WISH TO BE A COLONY, HE DECLARED, AND WOULD NOT REMAIN ONE MUCH LONGER, WITH OR WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF THE COMMITTEE.

4. GRACIANY MIRANDA MARCHAND, PRESIDENT OF THE PUERTO RICO BAR ASSOCIATION, ADDRESSED HIMSELF FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR TO THE "DISTRESSING COLONIAL PROBLEM" OF PUERTO RICO. HE REVIEWED IN DETAIL THE ASSOCIATION'S VIEWS ON THE PRECISE STATUS AND POWERS PUERTO RICO SHOULD ENJOY -- A DEGREE OF AUTONOMY THAT SEEMED TO BORDER ON FULL INDEPENDENCE. HE ALLEGED ILLEGAL USG INTERVENTION IN PUERTO RICO THROUGH INTELLIGENCE AND POLICE AGENCIES. IN CLOSING HE PAID TRIBUTE TO CUBA FOR THE WAY IT HAS ABIDED BY ITS HISTORICAL COMMITMENT" TO PUERTO RICO.

5. PROFESSOR ENEIDA VAZQUEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEACE COUNCIL, GAVE A LENGTHY HARANGUE CALLING FOR INDEPENDENCE AND PREFACED BY FULSOME GREETINGS TO PAST AND PRESENT CUBAN PERMREPS. SHE REVIEWED "PROGRESS" OF THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT SINCE LAST YEAR. SHE CASTIGATED THE PRESENCE OF US NAVAL BASES ON PUERTO RICO AND THE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 03357 02 OF 02 301644Z

"COLONIALIST EXPLOITATION" BY US TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES OF PUERTO RICAN NATURAL RESOURCES: OIL, COPPER, NICKEL AND

GOLD. SHE QUOTED FROM LETTERS ALLEGEDLY SENT BY FBI DIRECTOR HOOVER TO THE SAN JUAN FBI OFFICE ORDERING "DESTABILIZATION" OF THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE GROUPS AND CITED A NUMBER OF INSTANCES OF "REPRESSIVE ACTIVITY" BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN PUERTO RICO. HER REQUESTS TO THE COMMITTEE FOR ACTION FOLLOWED THE STANDARD LINE OF THE INDEPENDENCE ADVOCATES.

6. THE LAST PETITIONER TO SPEAK WAS FRANCISCO APONTE PEREZ PRESIDENT OF PROELA, INC. A PUERTO ROCAN CITIZEN GROUP FAVORING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH STATUS OF PUERTO RICO (HE HAS PREVIOUSLY APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE). HE DEPLORED THE LACK OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMONWEALTH STATUS WHICH MEANT "RELAPSING INTO COLONIALISM. HE URGED INCREASED SELF GOVERNMENT AND AUTONOMY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS AND HOPED THAT THE GA WOULD ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE MACHINERY TO AID IN THE "COMPLETION OF THE PROCESS OF SELF-DETERMINATION".

7. AS HE HAD DONE THE DAY BEFORE, CUBAN PERMREP RAUL R0A-KOURI, TOOK THE FLOOR TO ATTACK AN EARLIER SPEAKER, THIS TIME "A LESSER SERVANT OF IMPERIALISM", MIAMI MAYOR MAURICE FERRE, WHO HAD SUPPORTED STATEHOOD IN HIS SPEECH THE DAY BEFORE.

8. THE COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE HEARING PETITIONERS AT ITS NEXT MEETING, AUGUST 30 IN THE AFTERNOON. LEONARD

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